

leading an enterprise of 10 Federal laboratories across the country and six major programs performing vital research to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean, and coasts for the benefit of the Nation. Mr. McLean's preeminent leadership of OAR enabled vital advancements, including improved forecasting of weather extremes such as hurricanes, winter storms, extreme precipitation, and drought as well as a greatly increased understanding of the Earth's climate system. His leadership has enabled NOAA to better prepare society in order to reduce the severe impacts of these events on life and property.

On the international stage, as the U.S. Representative to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization—UNESCO—Mr. McLean's skillful collaborative approach helped advance U.S. scientific goals and garnered support from our partners in ocean observing around the world. He helped broker consensus for global biogeochemical ocean sensors, known as Argo, which enabled a \$53 million international commitment to expand deployments to improve ocean health and climate forecasting. Through this role, Mr. McLean served as a leader for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, championing this global undertaking to provide a common framework that ensures ocean science can support countries and achieve the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, I want to acknowledge Mr. McLean's commitment to scientific integrity within NOAA. During the last administration, he boldly stepped forward as a complainant when NOAA experienced political interference, putting himself at risk to uphold scientific integrity and the Agency's reputation. He also served as the Department of Commerce representative on the National Science and Technology Council Fast-Track Action Committee on Scientific Integrity where he cochaired a working group to provide responsive outcomes for the Presidential Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking. NOAA's science and the Agency's integrity has been made stronger through Mr. McLean's commitment and leadership on this issue.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire, I thank Craig McLean for his decades of excellent service to our Nation and wish him well in his retirement. I hope he enjoys the chance to take his family out on the water more in retirement and enjoys the oceans he has championed throughout his career.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT D. SHARP

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself, Vice Chairman RUBIO, Senator BLUNT, and all

members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to recognize the service and accomplishments of VADM Robert D. Sharp and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. His leadership and vision drove the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency—NGA—to deliver support to a wide array of customers while simultaneously transforming its operating procedures and business practices. As Director of NGA, Vice Admiral Sharp ensured that timely, relevant, and accurate geospatial intelligence was provided to policymakers, warfighters, first responders, the intelligence community, and the congressional intelligence oversight committees.

A veteran of the war in Afghanistan and the Gulf War, Vice Admiral Sharp served our country during a highly decorated 34-year career with the U.S. Navy, receiving two Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, two Defense Superior Service Medals, and the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

Vice Admiral Sharp's service included operational deployments with USS *Ranger* (CV61), Carrier Air Wing 2 embarked on USS *Constellation* (CV 64), and Carrier Group 2 embarked on USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75). Additionally, in 2016, Vice Admiral Sharp was tasked with serving as commander, Office of Naval Intelligence, and director, National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office.

Vice Admiral Sharp culminated his distinguished career as the seventh director of the NGA. In this capacity he also served as the intelligence community's functional manager for GEOINT, head of the National System for Geospatial Intelligence, and chair of the Allied System for Geospatial Intelligence.

As NGA director, Vice Admiral Sharp led 14,500 military, civilian, and contractor women and men with care, compassion, and resourcefulness during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the government shifted to maximize telework, NGA found new and innovative ways to meet mission demands while ensuring the safety of the workforce and, simultaneously, significantly improving the morale of the workforce.

Vice Admiral Sharp managed the multibillion-dollar annual operating budget of the Agency, including the construction of a new, state-of-the-art \$1.7 billion NGA-West campus in downtown St. Louis, which includes the Senator Roy Blunt Geospatial Learning Center. This innovative facility will be a model for the IC in the future. Under Admiral Sharp's leadership, the agency has maintained a constructive and productive relationship with the city, the local community, academia, and the private sector, marking St. Louis—now alongside Springfield, VA—as a leader in the GEOINT community.

Vice Admiral Sharp also directed the use of new technology and commercial capabilities to meet steadily increasing demands of the customer base for

trusted GEOINT with speed, accuracy, and precision—while working to keep ahead of the speed of change occurring in GEOINT inside and outside government and around the globe. The importance to the Nation—and the world—of the ability to utilize new commercial GEOINT capabilities has recently been made clear during Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Vice Admiral Sharp also refocused investment in great power competition and emphasized the importance of assured positioning, navigation, timing, and targeting.

Throughout his tenure at NGA, Vice Admiral Sharp focused attention on a whole-of-enterprise approach by expanding and deepening relations with partners across the enterprise. In particular, he has fostered increased engagement with colleges and universities and promoted geographic literacy and STEM education in K-12 institutions. NGA has an active CRADA with the University of Virginia and open source intelligence partnerships with William and Mary University and Virginia Tech. NGA has also signed educational partnership agreements with Harris Stowe State University, a historically Black university in St. Louis; University of Missouri St. Louis, the most diverse public research institution in the St. Louis area; and Galaudet University, in Washington, DC, the Nation's premier university for deaf and hard of hearing students. These initiatives are representative of Vice Admiral Sharp's career-long commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Vice Admiral Sharp's tenure at NGA was marked by strong leadership and dedication to mission. He inspired a workforce to remain committed to the mission while rapidly transforming with changes in technology and tradecraft during an unprecedented time in the history of the nation. His leadership of NGA and his decades of service to our country displayed honor, courage, and commitment. We congratulate Vice Admiral Sharp on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD B. GARONE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to thank and pay tribute to the service of Derry Police Chief Edward Garone.

For more than 50 years, Chief Garone has served with dedication and has worked to keep the people of Derry and people throughout the Granite State safe.

Throughout it all, Chief Garone has worked tirelessly to ensure public safety—the most fundamental task of any government—creating the stability necessary for our people, families, and economy, to thrive.

After bravely serving our country in the Marines, Chief Garone began his